

International Audubon Society

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Some Army golf courses are the biggest polluters on our installations. It has been common practice for course caretakers to spray pesticides and herbicides to reduce pests. The Fertilizer used on the fairways and greens can run off into streams and natural habitat is cut back, resulting in reduced living area for wildlife. Regardless of these hazards, Fort Bragg is leading the way in preserving this beautiful past time, while being good stewards of our environment.

Col. Al Aycock/Garrison Commander:

“We did some investigation about this Audubon Certification and we found out that not only could we make money doing golf, but we could make it environmentally safe.”

It’s actually cheaper for the Army to run clean and green golf courses. It cuts back on their irrigation, their use of chemicals, fertilizer, there are less areas to mow, and the International Audubon guidelines call for letting the buffer zones grow up.

Julia Love/Environmental Specialist; Ft. Bragg, NC:

“So it’s all a reduction in not only labor cost, but also your fuel and your chemical use, along with your water use. So, dollar-wise it makes sense. Sustainability wise, environmentally wise it makes sense too.”

In order for Ryder to become a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, the managers of the golf course must establish and document their efforts in six areas:

Environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, water quality management and outreach and education.

In April 2005, Fort Bragg's Ryder Golf Course met this stringent list of criteria, becoming the first Army golf course to be a Certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary.

Col. Al Aycock/Garrison Commander:

“In terms of sustainability and the Army, one of the toughest inspections any installation can go through, is called the Environmental Performance Assessment Survey and we recently had one of those. Fort Bragg scored half the Army average in negative findings and we set a new record in positive findings. The Army average for positive findings is two and we had thirteen positive findings. One of the positive findings was the work we had done with the Audubon Society right here.

Robert Taylor/Head Golf Professional, Ryder Golf Course:

We’re trying to do the right thing, for the Golf Course, for the environment, for the habitat, wildlife and plant life. We’re trying to do the right thing, and make it as just as environmentally friendly as possible. The golfers will still have a good product, and a good golf course to play.

Ryder golf course is just another model of the commitment the Army has made to their larger mission; practicing sound stewardship... today and into the future.

From Fayetteville, North Carolina, I'm Jesse McGill.